

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05485 111449Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: MEDIA COVERAGE: POPPY DECISION DEVELOPMENTS

1. MOST TURKISH DAILIES THURSDAY GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY TO A DECISION BY THE GOT TO SEND A PARLIAMENTARY "GOOD WILL DELEGATION" TO THE UNITED STATES IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN WHY THE POPPY BAN WAS LIFTED.

2. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, SEVERAL PARTIES HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO NAME DELEGATION PARTICIPANTS. BUT ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE JUSTICE PARTY IS INCLINED NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GROUP. NO DATE FOR THE TRIP HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. ADALET, IN BANNER HEADLINES, AND SEVERAL OTHER PAPERS INCLUDING MILLIYET, REPORT A STATEMENT BY JUSTICE PARTY REPRESENTATIVE MURAT BAYRAK IN WHICH HE ACCUSED THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ANKARA 05485 111449Z

ECEVIT GOVERNMENT OF TRYING TO BREAK TURKEY'S TIES WITH NATO

AND ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES. BAYRAK, A FIRST-TERM MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CALLED ON THE OPPOSITION PARTIES TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR RESISTANCE TO SUCH A MOVE.

4. ADALET, MILLIYET AND ZAFER ALSO GAVE FRONT PAGE PLAY TO A STATEMENT BY THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, VEDAT ONSAL. ONSAL SAID HE SUPPORTED THE RESUMPTION OF POPPY CULTIVATION. BUT HE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF FAILING TO MAKE TURKEY'S CASE CLEAR ABROAD AND OF BEING SURPRISED AND FRIGHTENED BY ADVERSE FOREIGN REACTION.

5. IN ITS STORY ON POPPY DECISION DEVELOPMENTS, CUMMURIYET SAID IT HAD LEARNED THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TOLD AMBASSADOR MACOMBER THE DECISION WAS IRREVOCABLE. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT: "IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT DURING HIS TALK WITH AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MACOMBER SAID THAT THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF INJURING THE TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP BECAUSE OF THE DECISION TO START OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION, AND THAT HE TOLD HIM THAT THE BAN ON OPIUM POPPY CULTIVATION WAS NOT BOUND BY AGREEMENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT OUR TRUE FRIENDS WILL SHOW UNDERSTANDING AND ACCORDINGLY DO WHAT FRIENDSHIP NECESSITATES. IT WAS STATED THAT THIS DECISION IS IRREVOCABLE, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SHOW FRIENDSHIP AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS IN ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONTROL AND PRODUCTION OF THE OPIUM POPPY AND EVEN IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY RELATED TO OPIUM. IT WAS SAID THAT WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY RELATED TO OPIUM, SMUGGLING WOULD BE ENDED, AND FURTHERMORE, HIGH GRADE TURKISH OPIUM WOULD BE USED IN THE BEST WAY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAN.

6. "IT IS EXPECTED THAT AMERICAN AMBASSADOR MACOMBER DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON WILL EXPLAIN THESE VIEWS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO THE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND WILL COME BACK TO ANKARA WITH SUGGESTIONS ON JOINT SOLUTIONS. GOVERNMENT CIRCLES SAY THAT A JOINT CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD ALSO BE ONE RESPECTING TURKISH SOVEREIGNTY AND WOULD BE AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM APPLIED ALL OVER THE WORLD".

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PAGE 03 ANKARA 05485 111449Z

7. SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO CARRY REACTION BY POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHERS TO REPORTS IN WEDNESDAY EDITIONS THAT A NEW YORK POST WRITER, PETE HAMILL, CALLED FOR SEVERE MEASURES AGAINST TURKEY, INCLUDING THE BOMBING OF POPPY FIELDS. MOST OF THOSE ASKED DISMISSED THE COLUMN AS NONSENSE. IN OTHER COVERAGE, MILLIYET BRIEFLY NOTED A STATEMENT BY NARCOTICS CONTROL EXPERT JOHN CUSAK THAT ONLY 80 PERCENT OF TURKISH OPIUM PRODUCTION COULD BE CONTROLLED, A

STATEMENT BY ROBERT GREENE OF NEWSDAY THAT AID TO TURKEY SHOULD NOT BE CUT, AND A ROUNDUP OF GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO THE DECISION.

8. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, YASAR AYSEV, WRITING IN BARIS, ROUNDLY CONDEMNED THE HAMILL PIECE: "THE MAN (HAMILL) WITHOUT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT TURKEY IS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, CONSIDERS THE U.S. THE FUEDAL LORD OF THE WORLD AND SAYS 'SINCE TURKEY IS NOT DOING WHAT WE WANT, LET US BOMB IT'. ONE CAN SEE A MALICIOUS, EGOTISTICAL, BOORISH AND CRUEL SPIRIT, DEVOID OF HUMANE VALUES." AYSEV GOES ON TO CRITICIZE INFORMATION AND TOURISM MINISTER BIRGIT FOR WRITING TO THE POST IN REPLY TO THE COLUMN.

9. IN ANOTHER COMMENT TAKING OFF FROM THE HAMILL COLUMN, ALI SIRMEN IN CUMHURIYET DISMISSES THE IDEA THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WOULD USE B-52'S TO WORK THEIR WILL ON TURKEY. OTHER, MORE SUBTLE POLITICAL MEANS WOULD BE USED, HE WARNS.
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